

Clifford Brown
117 Trent House Rd.
Irmo, SC 29063

POSTED
P0603305

PROTESTANT
2 5-405 10:30

ACCEPTED
Legal 703 3-3-05

March 1, 2005

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Attn: Docketing Department
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

SC PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION
2005 MAR -3 AM 9:31

RECEIVED

172956

2004-357 w/s

Dear Commission Members,

My name is Clifford Brown, and I am a customer of Carolina Water Service, Inc. I am opposed to the rate increases currently being sought by Carolina Water Service. As a homeowner, my current monthly service rate is \$30.33, and would increase to \$40.92 per month. This is a proposed increase of 35 percent. I have no other monthly bills or expenses that have ever increased by 35 percent all at once. This includes real property tax, personal property tax, homeowner's and auto insurance, and electric rates.

I have lived in my residence and have been an involuntary customer of Carolina Water Service since August of 1998. I say involuntary because I have no control over how the City of Columbia and Carolina Water Service divide up the sewer service in the Irmo area, and consequently I pay a monthly water bill to the City of Columbia, in addition to the sewer bill to Carolina Water Service. In the past 6 1/2 years Carolina Water Service has already had one rate increase. I do not recall seeing any major renovations being made during that time as a result of that increase, and no changes in the nature of the service being provided. I have no idea of what kinds of improvements will be made in my residential area that would justify this type of rate increase. Additionally, a rate increase of this magnitude can not be justified by simply stating that Carolina Water Service needs the additional funds to branch off into new residential or commercial areas. The financial burden of their own expansion plans should not be thrust upon their existing customers.

In closing, I would like to say that I understand that periodically rates and costs for all types of services will increase. However, a 35 percent rate increase is extreme, and certainly should be significantly reduced.

Sincerely,

Clifford Brown